

## BALTIMORE METROCENTER SURVEY

SURVEY NO.: B-2176

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0421765625

Address: 17 West Mulberry Street

Current Name: Baltimore International Hostel

Block: 580

Lot: 2

Lot size: 30 ft. x 150 ft.

Height: 3

Materials: Stone

Condition: Fair

Owner: See below

Use: Hotel

Accessible: yes, restricted

Designation:

Liber/Folio: SEB 80/274



Historic Name: Margaret J. Bennett House

Date: 1880

Architect/Builder:

Style (if appropriate): Renaissance Revival

OWNER: Potomac Area Council, American Youth Hostels

## Description:

The three-bay facade is entirely brownstone and has elaborate, heavily carved cornices with foliated consoles over the windows and the arched doorway. The deeply recessed entrance has cast iron gates. Paneled pilasters outline the door and window openings and the stone steps terminate in low brownstone pylons. The raised basement has monolithic stone window surrounds which form the sills of the high 2/2 first floor windows. The windows of the upper floors are also 2/2 but are proportionately smaller. The heavy cornice projects emphatically, with foliated consoles, rosettes, and dentils. The brownstone is severely spalled and weathering badly on all parts of the facade.

## Significance:

Area: architecture

Level: local

The Bennett House has the most elaborate facade of all the residential buildings in the Cathedral Hill area. Obviously designed by an architect and noted in the American Architect around the time of construction, the building was a showplace in its day. F.W. Bennett, the head of an auction house under his name, purchased the site in the late 1850's. The building then standing may have resembled those of 11, 13, and 15 West Mulberry. In 1880, the present building was erected. Margaret J. Bennett, having no children, endowed a home for working women through her will, the Margaret J. Bennett Home (B-2016). From 1920 to at least 1942, it was the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity house. In 1983, it was opened as a youth hostel.

Sources: American Arch. 7 (Jan. - June 1880), April 10, 1880, p. 159;  
City directories

Surveyor and Date: Janet L. Davis, March 1985

Baltimore Metrocenter Survey  
Cathedral Hill Area  
Margaret J. Bennett House  
17 West Mulberry Street  
B-2176



Margaret J. Bennett House B-2176  
17 West Mulberry Street  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: August 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
North elevation

B-2176  
MAGI #0421765604

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

BL580  
Lot II

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON: 17 West Mulberry					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER: 17 West Mulberry					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY:		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<b>OWNERSHIP</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Public        Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<b>STATUS</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<b>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</b> Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME: Daniel J. Rufo					
STREET AND NUMBER: 3703 Gibbons Ave.					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland	21204	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Records Office, Room 601					
STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore City Courthouse					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland	21202	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): JFC 908-235					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation					
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900, 26 S. Calvert St.					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland	21202	



## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

17 West Mulberry St., Lot 2, is a semi-attached apartment house of common bond brick. The side facing W. Mulberry St. is covered with a sandstone facade of channeled masonry; however, the facade is chipped revealing a lighter color of sandstone and occasionally brick underneath. The building has 3 stories and 3 bays.

The 1st story consists of 1 main entrance on the right side of the building and 2 rectangular windows on the left. Five steps lead up to a stoop and vestibule. Beyond the vestibule, there is an inner door of iron failing and glass. ~~Piers flank the entrance and the windows and support an entablature a cornice and consols.~~ Above the central portion of the arched doorway <sup>wooden</sup> The entrance is full-arched and flanked by ~~piers~~ <sup>wooden</sup> piers topped by consols which support a cornice over the entrance. A consol functioning as a keystone of the arch also supports the cornice. Each window to the left has 2X2 panes and stone sills. Like the entrance, ~~they too~~ <sup>the windows</sup> are flanked by the same pier and cornice motif. Between the consols, there is a flat lintel with a central circular design. A rectangular basement entrance lies below the 1st bay on the left. There is iron grill work on the door and around the top of the steps. The 2nd bay on the left has a basement window below it, 1 pane.

The 2nd and 3rd stories have 3 windows each similar to those on the 1st story. A belt course resembling a plain cornice lies between the 3rd story and the wooden entablature which functions as a cornice for the front facade. The entablature is similar to those over the windows, except that it is supported only by consols displayed at both ends of the facade and between each bay.

Facing W. Pleasant St., an extension of common bond brick projects from the center of the building on Mulberry St. The back side of the extension has 4 stories and 2 bays. On the 3rd story, there is a patio with chairs and a table. On the right side of the extension, a wooden stair way comes down from the fourth story to ground level. A lean-to roof covers the extension. No chimneys are visible.

An alley is situated between buildings on lots 2 and 3. The connecting buildings facing W. Mulberry St. and W. Pleasant St. are in proportion with those on the lots on W. Mulberry St.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

see 512 Cathedral

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

30 x 150

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Nancy Venditti, Amanda McQuiddy, Achsah O'Donovan

ORGANIZATION

AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY CHAP

DATE

11/20/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

265 Calvert Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

## 12.

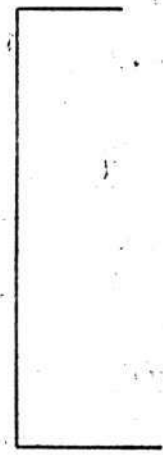
State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature





O BY McCREHEAD  
 LETTERED BY 105 J. Rokosky  
 CHECKED BY W. M. J. 100  
5-17-77 - G. J. 17.





B-2176

Block 580

17 West Mainberry St.

Sept. 1975

Gensch ODORCIN 10/25/75